

lovable and well-respected legal figures in the Western New York community.

A lifelong Buffalonian, Judge Sedita is the scion of one of the most famous and well-respected 20th century Buffalo political families. While the Judge's father was one of Buffalo's most well-liked 20th century political figures and someone looked back upon nostalgically as one of Buffalo's most favorite mayors; Judge Sedita's career as an attorney and a jurist has been tremendously substantial, as have been the Judge's contributions as a public servant to the hometown region he loves so much.

Born and raised in Buffalo, Judge Sedita was graduated summa cum laude from the Canisius College of Buffalo, and in 1960 earned his J.D. at the University at Buffalo Law School. During extensive legal practice in the office of the City of Buffalo's Corporation Counsel, Judge Sedita developed substantial expertise in the area of education law, serving for many years as the counsel to the city's Board of Education.

Judge Sedita's career on the bench began in the mid-1970s, upon his election as an Associate Judge of the Buffalo City Court. Following successful service as a Judge of the Erie County Family Court, he was elected as Chief Judge of the Buffalo City Court, administering the city's court system within the very building named for his late father. During this period, Judge Sedita assumed responsibility for the city's Housing Court, raising that court's profile and restoring its work to its rightful level of prominence. His work in that court was probably among the most impactful judicial work performed in Western New York during that period, and resulted in Judge Sedita's selection as a Buffalo News "Citizen of the Year."

For the better part of the past two decades, Judge Sedita has served with tremendous distinction as a Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, continuing to bring honor to not only his own career but also to his storied family name. Notwithstanding his retirement, all residents in Erie County are fortunate that the Sedita family's tradition of effective public service will continue—hopefully for many years to come. In 2012, the judge's son—Frank A. Sedita III, will complete his first term as Erie County's District Attorney. Frank Sedita III has proven a tenacious and effective prosecutor throughout his legal career, and he too, like his father the judge, continues to be a credit to his family, and to the community that he serves with such effectiveness.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask that the whole House join with those of us in Western New York who wish good luck and Godspeed to New York State Supreme Court Justice Frank A. Sedita, Jr., upon the occasion of his retirement from the bench.

HONORING THE SEVENTH CYCLE BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY OF KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the people of Thailand in celebrating the seventh cycle birthday anniversary

of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on December 5th. During his reign of over 65 years, Thailand continues to be the United States' long-term military ally, trade and economic partner, and friend in southeast Asia.

King Bhumibol holds a special relationship with our country beginning with his birth in Cambridge, Massachusetts while his father was attending Harvard University. As part of his continuing efforts to strengthen the ties between the United States and Thailand, the King visited America in 1960 and 1967. Under King Bhumibol's stewardship, Thailand has become a model of democracy and economic development in the region. Thailand's role as a regional democratic leader is a critical factor in the development of a stable Bangkok-Washington relationship.

I had the distinct honor and privilege of visiting King Bhumibol on my past visits. His continued efforts to provide guidance to improve the lives of his people were evident. Fittingly, he was awarded the United Nations Development Programme's first Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my best and warmest wishes on his 84th birthday and for a long life of good health. I am pleased to join our Thai friends in recognizing this special day.

IN SUPPORT OF THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. This campaign draws attention to the impact of violence against women around the world.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an international campaign of activism. It lasts for 16 days and starts on November 25, which is the International Day Against Violence Against Women, and ends on December 10, International Human Rights Day. The campaign highlights the links between violence against women and human rights, and stresses that this type of violence is a violation of human rights.

Since 1991, over 3,700 organizations in approximately 164 countries have participated in the 16 Days of Activism campaign.

Violence against women remains a serious problem both domestically and throughout the world. It has been estimated that nearly a billion women globally will be beaten, raped, mutilated or otherwise abused during their lifetimes. That is 1 in 3 women. Those statistics are extremely frightening for both men and women and are simply unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join the call to end violence against women and girls around the world.

A TRIBUTE TO KEITH HICKS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Keith Hicks for his leader-

ship throughout his community and focus on education and professionalism.

Mr. Hicks was born the youngest of five children, to his parents John Henry and Marie Antoinette in South Jamaica, Queens. As a child Mr. Hicks learned to cultivate a strong sense of leadership that would transcend into his future career.

In his early career, Mr. Hicks joined the Private Industry Council, an organization committed to youth development. As a program monitor, he completed his BA degree at John Jay College. He would also serve as instructor before moving to the Fortune Society, focusing his efforts on developing both the educational and professional lives of former prisoners. His career focus of providing resources to assisting the economically disadvantaged and at risk youth would continue with stops at the Hope Program where he served as Learning Center Director and the WAY Program where he served as Assistant Director, and Director.

Mr. Hicks' continued leadership role would extend to the YMCA, when he served as Director of the Cross Island branch in Queens. At the YMCA, Mr. Hicks ascended to serve as the Assistant Executive of the Northern Brooklyn branch and now as the executive Director of the Greenpoint Brooklyn branch, where he continues to serve. In this capacity, Mr. Hicks manages a budget in the millions, over 100 professional staff members, and offers services to thousands.

While serving at the YMCA, Mr. Hicks had the opportunity to pursue his Masters Degree from Queens College, further providing a great example to those he has influenced over the years. Mr. Hicks' accomplishments at the YMCA and throughout his career are extensive, but professionally he remains most proud of the role he has been able to play in the lives of our youth.

Mr. Hicks is the proud father of a daughter Tyler Marie Hicks who is presently a senior at Townsend Harris School and will enter college next year. Mr. Hicks' favorite scripture serves as a guiding force in his life, Hebrews 12:1: "wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us".

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Mr. Keith Hicks.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF RUBY HARTLEY BARTON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to the special life of Ruby Hartley Barton of Talladega, Alabama.

Mrs. Barton was born on December 15, 1911 in Georgia to James and Victoria Hartley. Mrs. Barton's father died while she was a baby, and her mother raised her and her six brothers and sisters. Mrs. Barton grew up in a fanning and textile family.

She was married to the late B.W. Barton for over 50 years and was blessed with two sons,